

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-03

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DRAFTED BY EA/TB:FJTATU:LRR

APPROVED BY EA/TB-GEORGE B ROBERTS

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R 302108Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 126461

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 9933 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 30 MAY

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 9933

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS CINCPAC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJ: REMARKS OF KING OF THAILAND

1. AFTER PRESENTING MY LETTERS TO THE KING OF THAILAND TODAY, HE ADDRESSED ME PERSONALLY ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES. THE KING WELCOMED ME TO HIS COUNTRY AND SAID THAT I WAS ARRIVING AT A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS MOMENT NOT ONLY IN THE HISTORY OF THAILAND BUT IN THE BROADER CONTEXT OF WORLD AFFAIRS. IN THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES WOULD BE CARRIED ON IN THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP AND CLOSE COOPERATION WHICH HAD EXISTED IN THE PAST. HE SAID HE HOPED THAT THE "RECENT EVENTS" TO WHICH I ALLUDED IN MY PREPARED TEXT WOULD NOT BE TAKEN BY ME AS REPRESENTING THE ATTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE OF

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THAILAND. THERE WAS A SMALL BUT VERY VOCAL MINORITY

WHICH CONSIDERED PEOPLE LIKE HIMSELF TO BE DINOSAURS
BUT THEY HAD NO REAL APPRECIATION OF THE NEEDS OF
THE KINGDOM.

2. THE KING WENT ON TO SAY THAT "WE" WERE DOING
OUR UTMOST FOR THE POOR AND THAT THAILAND WAS A COUNTRY
WITH A LONG HISTORY OF FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE.

3. THE KING SAID HE KNEW THAT I HAD HAD A GREAT
DEAL OF PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN THIS AREA BUT THAT
AS I PROBABLY KNEW CONDITIONS WERE DIFFERENT
IN EACH COUNTRY AND ALTHOUGH THAILAND AND LAOS
HAD MANY CLOSE TIES, THE SITUATION THERE WAS ENTIRELY
DIFFERENT.

4. THE KING SAID THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT I WOULD
ENJOY THE COOPERATION AND GOOD-WILL OF HIS GOVERNMENT
AND OF THE THAI PEOPLE.

5. AFTER I HAD INTRODUCED THE SENIOR OFFICERS WHO
HAD ACCOMPANIED ME, THE KING REPEATED HIS EXPRESSIONS
OF GOOD-WILL AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT HE WOULD SEE
ME IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

6. THE KING'S PREPARED REMAKRS WERE ANODYNE AND
WILL BE POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT.

7. COMMENT: I GAINED THE IMPRESSION FROM THE
KING'S MANNER, AS WELL AS FROM HIS REMARKS, THAT
HE IS PROFOUNDLY CONCERNED OVER THE EXTERNAL/
INTERNAL EMNACE HE PERCEIVES TO THE SECURITY OF
THE KINGDOM.

WHITEHOUSE UNQUOTE
INGERSOLL

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NNN

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